

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 776

Introduced by Assembly Member Chu
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Cohn)

February 18, 2005

An act to amend Section 11165.9 of the Penal Code, relating to child abuse reporting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 776, as amended, Chu. Child abuse reporting.

Existing law requires certain persons to report incidents of suspected child abuse to specified authorities by telephone and also by written report. Existing law also requires certain agencies to accept reports of suspected child abuse even if those agencies lack jurisdiction to investigate, unless the agency can immediately refer the report of suspected child abuse to the agency with proper jurisdiction.

This bill would specify that the agencies required to accept reports of suspected child abuse submitted by mandated reporters accept telephone, *facsimile*, and ~~written~~ *electronically transmitted* reports of suspected child abuse.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11165.9 of the Penal Code is amended
- 2 to read:
- 3 11165.9. Reports of suspected child abuse or neglect shall be
- 4 made by mandated reporters to any police department or sheriff's

1 department, not including a school district police or security
2 department, county probation department, if designated by the
3 county to receive mandated reports, or the county welfare
4 department. Any of those agencies shall accept a ~~written or~~
5 telephone, *facsimile, or electronically transmitted* report of
6 suspected child abuse or neglect whether offered by a mandated
7 reporter or another person, or referred by another agency, even if
8 the agency to whom the report is being made lacks subject matter
9 or geographical jurisdiction to investigate the reported case,
10 unless the agency can immediately electronically transfer the call
11 to an agency with proper jurisdiction. When an agency takes a
12 report about a case of suspected child abuse or neglect in which
13 that agency lacks jurisdiction, the agency shall immediately refer
14 the case by telephone, fax, or electronic transmission to an
15 agency with proper jurisdiction.